



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Group Art Unit 1638

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In re

Patent Application of

Vincent Lee C. Chiang, et al.

Application No. 09/530,663

Confirmation No.: 3250

Filed: July 11, 2000

Examiner: Stuart F. Baum

"GENETIC ENGINEERING OF LIGNIN  
BIOSYNTHESIS IN PLANTS"

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment And Request For Reconsideration After Final Action, Under 37 CFR§1.116 in the above-identified application. It is believed that no additional fee is required.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need to request an extension of time, please consider this a request for the same.

Charge or credit Deposit Account No. 13-3080 with any shortage or overpayment of the fees associated with this communication. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

I, Diane J. Frauchiger, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date of my signature

Signature

Date of Signature

*Diane J. Frauchiger*  
*June 4, 2003*

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JUN 13 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Respectfully submitted,

Sara D. Vinarov  
Reg. No. 48,524

File No. 66040-9651-01

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Htg  
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**AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**  
**AFTER FINAL ACTION, UNDER 37 CFR §1.116**

**(Filed within Two Months of the Office Action)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-2450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action on the merits of the above-cited application (hereinafter, the "Final Office Action"), mailed April 8, 2003, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of amendments to the claims of the above-identified application proposed herein and consideration of the following remarks.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments proposed herein were not presented in response to the previous Office Actions because, Applicants felt it was not necessary to amend the application to overcome the rejections. Instead, Applicants responded on January 13, 2003 to the previous Office Action with a Request for Reconsideration Under 37 CFR §1.111, in which Applicants amended the claims to improve the clarity of the claimed invention.

In the Final Office Action, most of the rejections and basis therefore were repeated. Applicants submit that the amendments proposed herein have been prepared with the express purpose of placing all the present pending claims in a condition for allowance. Some of the amendments proposed herein are merely proposed to place the claims in better form for

O.K. to enter  
8/14/03

appeal, should appeal become necessary. Other proposed amendments touch on the merits of the application. However, Applicants submit that any such amendments proposed herein are necessary in view of the failure of the arguments in the Request for Reconsideration to persuade the Examiner to allow the present claims to issue without amendment. Such amendments were not earlier presented because, as noted above, Applicants believed their Request for Reconsideration to be fully responsive to the previous Office Action. All the amendments proposed herein are designed to materially advance prosecution of the application and, it is hoped, completely obviate any need for appeal.

For reasons set forth above, and in view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments proposed herein under 37 CFR §1.116.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.